

XVI.

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HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF THE  
NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.  
BY THE EDITOR.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE SOCIETY.

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It was intended to include in the present volume some account of the origin and formation of this society, the objects its founders had in view, and the degree of success that has attended its labours at different periods. But the task of preparing such a paper having been deferred until other more important materials could be arranged, the work has in the meantime grown beyond the limits originally assigned to it, without leaving space for even a brief sketch of the institution. It is, nevertheless, proposed to take a rapid glance at the leading incidents in its short, but honorable career ; reserving many of the more minute and individual details for another occasion.

The plan of forming a State Historical Association appears to have originated with the late Judge Benson and John Pintard, Esq., (the latter of whom is still living at an advanced age,) through whose exertions several meetings for the purpose were held in a room of the old City Hall, in the year 1804. After canvassing the matter for some time, the persons who had been invited to take part in the preliminary arrangements appointed a committee to draft a constitution, under which an organization finally took place. The minutes of the society contain the following record of the first regular meeting :—

“New-York, Nov. 20th, 1804. The following persons, viz:

Egbert Benson,	Rev. John M. Mason,
De Witt Clinton,	Rev. John N. Abeel,
Rev. William Linn,	Samuel Bayard,
Rev. Samuel Miller,	Peter G. Stuyvesant,
Dr. David Hosack,	Anthony Bleecker, and
John Pintard,	

being assembled in the Picture Room of the City Hall, in the city of New-York, agreed to form themselves into a society, the principal design of which should be to collect and preserve whatever may relate to the natural, civil, or ecclesiastical history of the United States in general, and of this state in particular, and appointed Mr. Benson, Dr. Miller, and Mr. Pintard, a committee to prepare and report a draft of a constitution. The meeting then adjourned until Monday evening, the 10th of December next.”

At the adjourned meeting, the following gentlemen were present :—

Egbert Benson, (Chairman,)	De Witt Clinton,
Rufus King,	Rev. John N. Abeel,
Rev. John M. Mason,	Rev. John C. Kunzé,
Rev. John Bowden,	Daniel D. Tompkins,
Rev. William Harris,	Peter G. Stuyvesant,
Prof. John Kemp,	Rev. John H. Hobart,
Dr. Peter Wilson,	Dr. David Hosack,
Rev. Samuel Miller,	Dr. Archibald Bruce, and
John Murray, Jr.,	John Pintard.

A constitution for the proposed society, to be called "the New-York Historical Society," was reported at this meeting, and finally adopted. The first meeting under it was holden on the 14th of January, 1805, when the society was fully organized by the choice of the following officers :—

"Egbert Benson, Esq., President,  
 Right Rev. Bishop Moore, D.D., 1st Vice President,  
 Brockholst Livingston, Esq., 2d Vice President,  
 Rev. Samuel Miller, D.D., Corresponding Secretary,  
 Mr. John Pintard, Recording Secretary,  
 Charles Wilkes, Esq., Treasurer,  
 Mr. John Forbes, Librarian.

*Standing Committee.*

William Johnson, Esq.,	Daniel D. Tompkins, Esq.,
Dr. Samuel L. Mitchell,	John M'Kesson, Esq.,
Dr. David Hosack,	Anthony Bleecker, Esq.,
Rev. John M. Mason, D. D."	

An excellent address to the public, setting forth the objects of the institution, together with several "queries as to those points on which the society requested particular information," and the constitution and by-laws of the society, were soon after printed in a pamphlet form, and extensively circulated. These documents were also inserted in the first volume of Collections.

Most of the gentlemen whose names have been mentioned as the founders and original members of the society, are too well known, from their high reputation in the community, to require any notice at our hands. Among them will be immediately recognized the names of eminent divines, illustrious statesmen and distinguished jurists, together with others not less esteemed in their day for professional skill, literary taste, and classical or scientific attainments. Of the whole number, four only survive, viz., the Rev. Dr. Miller, now of Princeton

College, N. J., and Messrs. Pintard, Stuyvesant, and Johnson, of New-York.

The foundation of a library seems to have been laid in the spring of 1807, by the adoption of the following resolution :—

“The recording secretary, [Mr. Pintard,] having represented that he is in possession of a considerable number of books relating to the history of America, which he is willing to dispose of at the original cost, *resolved*, that the standing committee be authorized to purchase said books for the use of the society.”

The liberal donations subsequently made, together with other purchases, soon formed a respectable library in the department of American history. The late Timothy Alden, D.D., (afterwards President of Meadville College, Penn.,) being on a visit to this city in 1813, offered his services for the preparation of a catalogue, which the society readily accepted ; and the catalogue thus prepared was immediately printed, at first, separately, and afterwards in the second volume of the Collections.

The meetings were for some time holden in the old City Hall, often called Federal Hall, from its having been occupied by the Congress of the United States after the adoption of the federal constitution.\* It was on the balcony of this edifice that Washington was inaugurated the first President of the United States,—an event recently commemorated by the society. In 1809, a communication was received from the Academy of Arts, inviting the society to occupy a room in the Government House ; the invitation was promptly accepted, and in September of the same year the first meeting was held there. The north-west room in the second story of that building was appropriated to the society. The books which had been previously kept in the ‘City Library,’ were removed to the same place. The prospects of the society now began to brighten ; numerous resident and honorary members were elected, and the patriotic objects of the institution rendered it deservedly popular. Application was made to the legislature for an act of incorporation, and seconded by the powerful aid of the great Clinton, then a leading member in the state senate, who presented a strong and able report in its favour, the society obtained a charter that placed it on a firm and substantial foundation.

In the same year, (1809,) Mr. Tompkins having been elected governor of the state, was excused from serving on the standing committee, and De Witt Clinton was elected in his place. The following resolution was adopted at the January meeting :—

\* Some of the desks, &c., used in this building for the accommodation of Congress, now serve to furnish the rooms of the society.

"This year commencing the third century since the discovery of this part of North America by Henry Hudson, *resolved*, That this society will commemorate the important event, and that the Rev. Dr. Miller, corresponding secretary, be requested to prepare a discourse for the occasion." A committee was appointed at the same time "to examine and ascertain the exact date of this discovery;" who subsequently reported, 'that the Journal of the Voyage of Henry Hudson, contained in Purchas' Pilgrims, appeared to be the most authentic and satisfactory document on the subject, and that Captain Hudson, who sailed from Holland in the month of March, 1609, discovered and entered the river since called by his name, on the fourth day of September following." That day was accordingly designated for the proposed celebration.

The use of the front court room in Federal Hall was granted to the society for the occasion, where "the Rev. Dr. Miller delivered a learned and interesting discourse, illustrative of this event, before a large and respectable audience of ladies and gentlemen, among whom were his Excellency the Governor, and the Mayor and Corporation of the city." After the discourse, the society adjourned to the City Hotel where together with a number of invited guests, "they sat down to an elegant dinner, consisting of a variety of shell and other fish with which our waters abound, wild pigeons and *succatash*, the favorite dish of the season, with the different meats introduced into this country by the European settlers."\* The toasts and sentiments offered on this interesting occasion, are faithfully recorded in the minutes of the society.

This festival led to the publication of the first volume of Collections; a committee having been appointed after the delivery of the discourse, "to report materials for forming a volume of the proceedings of this society, together with such tracts relating to the history of this country as may merit re-publication." The committee consisted of Messrs. Miller, Johnson, Pintard, and Anthony Bleeker. Mr. Johnson is well known to the public as the able reporter of the decisions of the supreme court of this state. Mr. Bleeker was also a member of the bar, but although respected in his profession for learning and integrity, he was more successful in the cultivation of his literary talents, which he displayed in occasional contributions, both in prose and poetry, to the periodical literature of the day. "For thirty years," says a late writer, "the periodical literature of New-York and Philadelphia was constantly indebted to his fancy and good taste."†

\* Minutes of the Society.

† Specimens of American Poetry, ii. 381. Mr. Bleeker died in the spring of 1827. There is an excellent portrait of him in the Society Library.

The discourse of Dr. Miller appeared in the volume, and was followed by several valuable documents from Purchas, including the journals of Hudson's four voyages. The laws of the Duke of York's government over the colony were also republished. This volume deserves the credit of being more strictly confined to the objects of the society, in collecting rare and curious materials for the historian, than those that followed it, which are chiefly made up of occasional addresses, delivered, indeed, before the society, but often on subjects that claim slight connexion with the history of the country. This was not, however, invariably the case; the discourses of Clinton, Gouverneur Morris, Verplanck, Hosack, and Jarvis, are not only fine exhibitions of eloquence and general learning, but valuable illustrations of historical data which the student of American history cannot fail to appreciate. The occasion on which they were delivered was an annual festival of the society, generally celebrated on St. Nicholas day, the sixth of December. The customary place of dining on these occasions was for several years at *Kent's Hotel*, No. 42 Broad-street.

The influence of De Witt Clinton continued to be exercised for the benefit of the society. In 1814, he drafted a memorial to the Legislature on its behalf, setting forth in a clear and masterly manner the important objects of the institution, and making a strong and successful appeal to the liberality of the two houses for its encouragement. In this memorial, he divided the civil history of the state into four parts:—

- “ 1. When occupied by the aborigines.
2. When under the government of the Dutch, which was about half a century.
3. Its state under England, which continued about one hundred and twelve years, and which includes the proprietary government of the Duke of York, and its government under the kings of Great Britain, excepting about sixteen months, when it was re-possessed by the Dutch.
4. And lastly, its political existence as a member of an independent government.”

He then proceeded to show, says Renwick,\* “in what a scattered state even the records were, whence alone an authentic history of these several periods could be derived. The Indian tribes were fast disappearing before the moral force of civilization; the mounds, ramparts and tumuli of a yet earlier race were yielding to the plough and harrow; while the records of the official treaties between the Five Nations and the colonial authorities, were in the hands of an expatriated family. The history of the emigrants from Holland, and of the protestant families of Belgium, who had preferred to encounter the dangers of the seas

\* Life of De Witt Clinton, by James Renwick. 115.

and the terrors of the wilderness to submission to the bloody rule of Alva, were in the archives of the Dutch West India Company. Much of the manuscript history of the British colonial period was in the public offices of London, or transferred to the library of the British Museum. While, even for the period which had elapsed since the revolution, no provision had been made for the preservation of the pamphlets, the periodicals, and the daily publications, which, however they may be despised after their first ephemeral interest has subsided, become, after the lapse of years, the vivid expression of the feelings, the manners, and the principles of the era which gave them birth."

"This memorial," continues the biographer of Clinton, "was favorably received by the legislature, and led to a grant of twelve thousand dollars in aid of the funds of the society. The grant was to be received from the avails of a lottery, and the society unluckily engaged its credit in the purchase of books and of manuscripts, ere it was known how distant and precarious were the proceeds of this mode of raising money. It thus became involved in a debt which was not extinguished without many and severe sacrifices. It had, however, before its usefulness was impeded by the pressure of this debt, published several volumes of transactions, which are of much value. Its library still remains an evidence of the liberality of the state, and a monument of the earnestness with which Clinton furthered such institutions as were intended to add to the permanent reputation of the country."

The debt incurred by the society in anticipation of the funds to be received from the lottery, amounted to several thousand dollars, and was chiefly assumed by the librarian, Dr. John W. Francis, to whom a mortgage on the property of the society was executed by way of security. At length, after a long continued struggle with pecuniary embarrassments and difficulties, an arrangement was entered into with Union College, by which the society agreed to take eight thousand dollars in cash for its lottery interest, out of which sum, in 1823, the debts were paid. It is just to add, that but for the liberal advances made by Dr. Francis on account of the society, and his indefatigable exertions to maintain its credit and usefulness at that period, its valuable library and cabinet might have been sacrificed to the discharge of its pecuniary obligations.

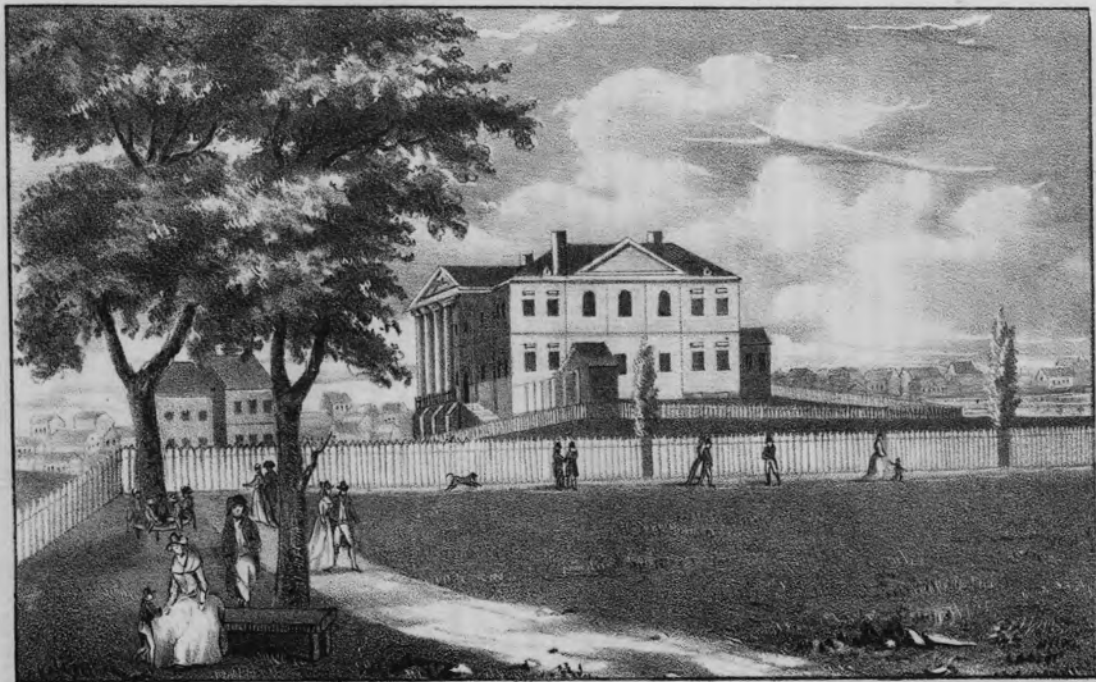
Many valuable additions were made to the library during the time [1812—1819] that Dr. Francis officiated as librarian. Among the original papers, was the military correspondence of Gen. Gates. These were obtained through the influence of the celebrated Robert Fulton, then a resident member of the society. It seems that they had been bequeathed by Gen. Gates to Joel Barlow, who contemplated writing a history of the revolution; but on the death of Barlow, in Europe, his widow had been

induced by Mr. Fulton to transfer them to the society. The trunk in which they were contained, was in the possession of the latter at the time of his decease, and in July, 1816, their reception by the society was duly announced. In the following year, Mrs. Morris, of Morrisania, relict of Gouverneur Morris, presented to the society portraits of Columbus, Americus Vesputius, Cortez, and Magellan, copied from the originals, it is said, in the Florence Gallery. To these has been recently added a copy of an original portrait of Sebastian Cabot, for which the society is indebted to the artist, Mr. C. G. Thompson.

In 1814, Dr. Hosack succeeded the Rev. Dr. Miller as corresponding secretary, the latter having accepted a professorship in Princeton College, which he yet fills. The society thus lost one of its most active and useful members, to whose exertions it had been greatly indebted from the beginning. Dr. Hosack likewise took a lively interest in the prosperity of the society, and for several years was among its warmest friends. He was elected President on the resignation of De Witt Clinton, in 1820, and delivered several discourses before the institution, in which he displayed great learning and historical research.

In 1815, notice was given to the society that the Government House was to be sold, and that the corporation had appropriated the large building in the rear of the new City Hall for the use of this and other institutions. The following year the society accordingly removed to spacious rooms in that building, to which the name of the New-York Institution was then given. The Government House was taken down about the same time, and the grounds it had occupied were soon covered with the handsome block of houses now fronting the Bowling Green. This was originally the site of Fort Amsterdam, which after the conquest was called Fort James, in compliment to the Duke of York; in the reign of William and Mary, Fort William; and in the following reigns, Fort Anne and Fort George. In 1790, the legislature passed an act authorizing the corporation to demolish Fort George, and to level the ground on which it was situated, a part being reserved for public purposes, and a part vested in the corporation for the erection of public buildings, or works of defence. The same act appointed commissioners for the purpose of causing "a proper house and other necessary buildings to be erected on some part of the lands for the use of the government of this state, and to be applied to the temporary use and accommodation of the President of the United States, during such times as congress shall hold their sessions in the city of New-York." Such was the origin of the Government House. Congress having removed to Philadelphia before the completion of the edifice, it was never occupied by the President, as originally intended, but was the residence of the gov-





*Lithed G.W. Lewis 156 Nassau St. N.Y.*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

NEW-YORK, 1795.

*Drawn for the N.Y. Historical Society.*

ernors of the state until Albany became the seat of government. It was thus occupied successively by George Clinton and John Jay. A publication of 1814 describes this building in the following manner :—

“At its source, [Broadway,] on the spot where Fort George formerly stood, stands a large brick edifice, built by the legislature, and originally intended for the residence of the governor of the state. It is most pleasantly situated, having a handsome area, called the Bowling Green, and affording a complete prospect of the bay and Jersey shore. At present [1814] the upper apartments are appropriated to the use of the Academy of Arts and the Historical Society. The lower part is rented to government for the accommodation of the collector, naval officer, and surveyor of the port.”\*

The plan of the society originally comprised natural as well as civil history, and at one period considerable attention was paid to the collection of minerals and specimens in the former department. Dr. Mitchell, De Witt Clinton, and Col. George Gibbs, were among the most zealous amateurs of natural science, and the latter gentleman, who was chairman of the mineralogical committee, was particularly active in promoting an attention to his favorite study. But the Lyceum of Natural History having been formed at that period for the exclusive pursuit of those branches of science, it was proposed to present to that institution the specimens, &c., collected by the society, which was accordingly done.

An extensive and valuable cabinet of coins and medals was presented to the society in 1818, by the heirs of the Rev. Dr. Kunzé, a pastor of the Lutheran Church in Frankfort-street from 1784 till his decease in 1807, and professor of Oriental Literature in Columbia College. Dr. Kunzé was a native of Germany, and enjoyed a high reputation for learning and talents among his contemporaries. A portrait of him adorns the rooms of the society. The Colden and Schuyler papers were added to the manuscript collections at about the same time; and among the books were complete sets of the *Moniteur*, *Rymer's Fœdera*, and many original Spanish works of great value relating to Mexico and South America.

Notwithstanding the liberal grant of the legislature, the society became again seriously embarrassed by debt, and so desperate was its condition regarded that, in 1826, it was determined to dispose of two-thirds of the library to meet its obligations. Recourse was again had to the legislature. A memorial setting forth its financial difficulties was drawn up, and Frederic De Peyster, Esq. was requested to proceed with it to Albany

\* *Strangers' Guide*, &c., by Thomas N. Stanford. The accompanying view is copied from the *New-York Magazine* for January, 1795.

as the agent of the society. Mr. De Peyster accordingly repaired to Albany during the session of 1827, and, with the aid of Gov. Clinton, succeeded in obtaining a grant of five thousand dollars, on condition that the debts of the society should be so reduced as to render that sum sufficient to extinguish them altogether. The thanks of the society were afterwards presented to the governor and the legislature for this liberal donation; and to Mr. De Peyster, "for his zealous, efficient, and disinterested services in proceeding to Albany, and presenting to the legislature the claims of the society."

Three volumes of Collections had already been published: a fourth was now added, (1828,) containing a continuation of Smith's History of New-York to the year 1762, from the original MS. of the author, presented for the purpose by his son, William Smith, Esq., of Quebec. The first volume, originally printed in London, in 1757, came down to 1732; and the society, in 1829, reprinted both volumes in a handsome uniform edition, under the editorial care of Dr. Francis, John Delafield, Esq., and Dr. Hosack.\* A memoir of the author, written by his son, was prefixed to this edition.

The occasional publications of the society have been numerous. The catalogue of the library, the memorials to the legislature with accompanying documents, Dr. Hosack's memoir of Hugh Williamson, originally delivered before the society, and besides the annual addresses inserted in the Collections, first printed separately, those of Chancellor Kent, (now republished,) William Sampson, the celebrated Irish patriot, Joseph Blunt, and William Beach Lawrence, Esqrs., were severally printed. The memoir or discourse of the venerable EGBERT BENSON, the first President of the society, delivered in 1816, was printed at his own expense. This circumstance arose from objections having been made to certain portions of the discourse by individuals, who were desirous they should be omitted if published by the society. At these suggestions Judge Benson took offence, as appears from some remarks relating to the subject published with the memoir. He printed a new edition of it with more copious notes, in 1825, at Jamaica, Long Island, where he resided during the latter part of his life. He died on the twenty-fourth of August, 1833, at the age of eighty-seven years.†

Judge Benson's discourse is a remarkable production, both as to matter and style. It professedly treats of local names in this state, whether of Indian or European origin; but while pur-

\* It is a matter of regret that the original preface of the author was omitted in this edition. A continuation of Smith's first volume was commenced by J. V. N. Yates, Esq., but not extended far. It was printed at Albany.

† An interesting memoir of Judge Benson, from the pen of Chancellor Kent, is contained in Thompson's History of Long Island, pp. 408—410.

suings his curious investigations in relation to this subject, he glances at many striking peculiarities in the manners and customs of the early Dutch inhabitants, (among whom were the Judge's own ancestors,) and throws some light upon the social condition of the primitive colony. The style of the memoir is, perhaps, its most eccentric feature. Aiming at a most rigid conciseness of language, often to the exclusion of connecting particles in the construction of his sentences, he becomes obscure, and even unintelligible, without the exercise of great patience and resolution on the part of his readers. The memoir is altogether so singular a production, that we are not surprised it offended persons of fastidious taste, watchful of the dignity of the society as represented by its presiding officers. At the same time it deserves a careful perusal in connexion with other works relating to the early history of New-York.

In 1832, the society again removed, after occupying its rooms in the New-York Institution sixteen years by a gratuitous lease from the city corporation. On the nineteenth of April, in that year, possession was taken of a new hall in Remsen's building at the corner of Broadway and Chambers street, on which occasion a learned discourse was delivered by William Beach Lawrence, Esq., in the presence of a numerous assemblage. This change of location proved unfavorable to the interests of the society. The rent of the hall, (five hundred dollars per annum,) and other expenditures, led to the creation of a new debt, for which the treasurer, John Delafield, Esq., was responsible; and it soon became necessary in order to preserve the property of the institution, to make arrangements for the diminution of its current expenses. During a period of three or four years, (1833—1836,) no minutes of the meetings are preserved. At length, in 1836, measures were taken for relieving the society from its embarrassments; the treasurer was authorized to raise one thousand dollars on the credit of the institution, and a committee raised to select a new location. Mr. Delafield having resigned the office of treasurer, John Glover, Esq., was elected in his place; but this gentleman soon after resigning the office, Hickson W. Field, Esq., was elected at the November meeting. This gentleman deserves great credit for the ability and attention with which, during a period of four years, he managed the finances of the society. On retiring from office, he had the satisfaction of leaving the institution entirely freed from its pecuniary difficulties, and in a highly prosperous condition.

Several offers were made at this period by different public institutions for the gratuitous accommodation of the society; among them was "the Stuyvesant Institute," an association for literary purposes, recently incorporated, by whom an elegant

building had been erected on Broadway. A committee, of which the Rev. Francis L. Hawks, D.D., (then an active and efficient member of the society,) was chairman, reported in favour of accepting the proposals of that institution, in which the society concurred. The library was accordingly removed thither in the summer of 1837, and a gratuitous lease of two spacious rooms was soon after received for the term of ten years. The first meeting was held there on the twenty-eighth of September in that year.

Effectual measures were now taken to restore the prosperity of the society. Among other means resorted to for this purpose, a public course of historical lectures was determined upon, which were commenced in January, 1838, by a brilliant discourse from Rev. Dr. Hawks, before a crowded assemblage in the spacious lecture room of the Stuyvesant Institute. This was followed by a series of lectures, chiefly from members of the society, which were fully attended. The pecuniary proceeds of this course of lectures sufficed to extinguish the debts of the society.

At the meeting in April, of the same year, a resolution (offered by the Editor) was adopted by the society, to memorialize the legislature on the subject of collecting materials in Europe illustrative of the history of New-York. The memorial was presented so near the close of the session of that year, that it was deemed expedient by the friends of the measure to allow it to pass over to the next legislature, when, through the unwearied exertions of John L. Stephens, Esq. in urging its importance upon the members of both houses, after it had been introduced to their favorable notice by a special message from Governor Seward, it was carried with great unanimity. During the present season, John Romeyn Brodhead, Esq., has been appointed by the Governor and Senate the agent of the State under the act thus passed, who has already sailed for Europe to discharge the duties of his mission. Mr. Brodhead, having resided for sometime in the Netherlands as an *attaché* to the legation of the United States, and being familiar with the language of the Fatherland, will enjoy great facilities for the discovery of any historical documents, connected with the early settlement of the state, that may exist in the national archives or individual collections of that country.

Beside this attention to the views of the society, the legislature during its recent session (1841), in compliance with another recommendation, has determined to print the journals of the New York Provincial Congress and Convention, together with the proceedings of the Committee of Safety, from May, 1775, to the adoption of the state constitution and the close of the northern campaign, in 1777. For two years and a half these

bodies exercised legislative powers, at a most trying and momentous period in the history of this state ; but their journals having remained in the hands of the secretary, the late John M'Kesson, Esq., were not deposited among the archives of the government until about twenty years since. They include the period of the invasion of the territory of the state by the British army under General Burgoyne, and constitute altogether a most important mass of public documents. Great credit is due to the Hon. Gabriel Furman, of the Senate, and Hon. William B. Maclay, of the Assembly, for their attention to the memorial of the society in reference to the publication of these papers.

A second course of historical lectures during the following season proved even more successful than the first. The proceeds were devoted to the enlargement of the library, to which considerable accessions have been consequently made. Liberal donations of books and manuscripts began to be received. Among the latter a highly valuable mass of original papers and maps, together with the printed report, relating to the subject of the North-Eastern Boundary, was presented by the Hon. ALBERT GALLATIN, formerly one of the Commissioners of the United States for the settlement of that question. These important documents comprise the journal of the Commissioners and several manuscript maps that have not been published.

The fiftieth anniversary of Washington's first inauguration as President of the United States, was celebrated with great spirit by the society. The splendid address delivered on the occasion by the Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, will be an ever-during memorial of that noble festival ; and the recollections of those who participated in it cannot fail to partake of the bright and agreeable character that marked the occasion. To the chairman of the committee of arrangements, Joseph Blunt, Esq., by whom the plan of the celebration was conceived, and admirably carried out, great credit is due.

A new necessity for a change of location has recently arisen, in consequence of the sale of the Institute under the foreclosure of a mortgage of a date prior to the society's lease. In this emergency it has received the offer of two valuable lots of ground from Peter G. Stuyvesant, Esq., for the erection of a building to answer the future purposes of the institution, and for its exclusive use. It was deemed inexpedient, however, to make the necessary exertion at present to raise the amount of money required for this object, on which the offer of the lots was conditioned ; and in the meantime a liberal proposal from the New-York University has been accepted. But it is hoped that before many years a substantial edifice may be erected for the sole and permanent accommodation of the society, so that the increasing and valuable literary treasures and works of art

belonging to it, may no longer be exposed to loss and injury by frequent removals.

We have thus brought to a close a rapid sketch of the more prominent points in the proceedings of the society during the thirty-six years of its existence. They have been, almost without exception, gleaned from its recorded minutes, and might have been easily extended, had our space permitted. We reserve for another occasion the more ample details that were originally intended to be comprised in the present paper.

#### SYNOPSIS OF LECTURES DELIVERED BEFORE THE SOCIETY.

<i>First Course—1838.</i>		<i>Subjects.</i>
Introductory by F. L. HAWKS, D.D.,		Pocahontas.
Two lectures by WM. S. WALKER,		The aborigines of America.
“ “ JOSEPH BLUNT,		The origin of the civil and political institutions of the United States.
One lecture by SAMUEL WARD, JR.,		Arnold's expedition to Quebec, 1775.
“ “ WILLIAM L. STONE,		Brant, the Mohawk Chief, and the Wyoming massacre.
“ “ CHAS. R. KING, M.D.,		The Huguenots in America.
Two lectures by GEORGE FOLSOM,		The discovery of America by the Northmen in the tenth century.
One lecture by JOHN O. SARGENT,		The siege of Boston in 1775-6.
“ “ CHARLES KING,		Sir Edmund Andros.
<i>Second Course—1839.</i>		
Introductory by MANTON EASTBURN, D.D.		Berkeley, Bishop of Cloyne.
One lecture by JOHN L. STEPHENS,		The life and character of Mohammed Ali.
“ “ CALEB S. HENRY, D.D.,		Witchcraft.
“ “ SAMUEL WARD, JR.,		The battle of Long Island, 1776.
“ “ JOHN R. BARTLETT,		The supposed expedition of Madoc, Prince of Wales, with a Welch colony to America, in the 12th century.
“ “ F. L. HAWES, D.D.,		Capt. John Smith, and the settlement of Virginia.
“ “ WM. W. CAMPBELL,		Gen. James Clinton, of New York.
“ “ GEORGE BANCROFT,		The colonial rivalry of England and France.
“ “ GEO. W. BETHUNE, D.D.		Holland.
“ “ JOHN O. SARGENT,		Mirabeau.
“ “ JOHN W. EDMONDS,		Observations on the Indian character.
“ “ GEORGE FOLSOM,		The life and voyages of Americus Vesputius.
<i>Third Course—1840.</i>		
Introductory by ORVILLE DEWEY, D.D.		Philosophy of History.
One lecture by HON. WM. B. REED,		The infancy of the Union.
“ “ ALEX. W. BRADFORD,		The origin of the American Indians.
(This course was not completed.)		
<i>Fourth Course—1841.</i>		
Introductory by JOHN L. STEPHENS,		Antiquities of Central America.
Two lectures by FRANCIS CATHERWOOD,		Same subject.

# OFFICERS

OF THE

## NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

FROM ITS ORGANIZATION, JAN. 14th, 1805.

<i>Elected.</i>	PRESIDENTS.	<i>Retired.</i>
1805	*Hon. EGBERT BENSON, LL.D.	1816
1816	*Hon. GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,	1817
1817	*His Exc. DE WITT CLINTON, LL.D.	1820
1820	*DAVID HOSACK, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.	1828
1828	Hon. JAMES KENT, LL.D.	1832
1832	His Exc. MORGAN LEWIS,	1836
1836	PETER GERARD STUYVESANT,	1840
1840	PETER AUGUSTUS JAY, LL.D.	

	VICE-PRESIDENTS.	
1805	*Rt. Rev. BENJAMIN MOORE, D.D.	1810
"	*Hon. BROCKHOLST LIVINGSTON,	"
1810	*Hon. GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,	1816
"	*DE WITT CLINTON, LL.D.	1817
1817	WILLIAM JOHNSON,	1818
"	*DAVID HOSACK, M.D.	1819
1818	Col. JOHN TRUMBULL,	1828
1819	*Hon. SAMUEL L. MITCHELL, M.D. LL.D.	1820
1820	*ANTHONY BLEECKER,	1821
1821	*Hon. CADWALLADER D. COLDEN,	1824
1823	PETER A. JAY, LL.D.	1828
1828	PHILIP HONE,	1840
"	CHARLES KING,	1832
1832	*SAMUEL WARD,	1836
1836	WILLIAM BEACH LAWRENCE,	
1840	Rev. THOMAS DE WITT, D.D.	

	CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES.	
1805	Rev. SAMUEL MILLER, D.D.	1814
1814	*DAVID HOSACK, M.D.	1817
1817	JOHN W. FRANCIS, M.D.	1819
1819	*LYMAN SPALDING, M.D.	1821
1821	*Rev. FREDERICK C. SCHAEFFER,	1822
1822	HENRY M. FRANCIS, M.D.	1827
1827	FREDERIC DE PEYSTER, Jr.	1829

[NOTE.—This office was merged in that of Recording Secretary in 1829, and revived in 1838.]

1838 FREDERIC DE PEYSTER.

\* Deceased.



*Elected.*

## RECORDING SECRETARIES.

*Retired.*

1805	JOHN PINTARD, LL.D.	1820
1820	JOHN B. BECK, M.D.	1823
1823	MATTHEW C. PATTERSON,	1824
1824	*BENJAMIN HAIGHT,	1828
1828	JOSEPH BLUNT,	1829
1829	FREDERIC DE PEYSTER,	1838
1838	BENJAMIN R. WINTHROP,	1839
1839	JOHN C. JAY, M.D.	1840
1840	BENJAMIN R. WINTHROP,	

## TREASURERS.

1805	*CHARLES WILKES,	1819
1819	JOHN PINTARD, LL.D.	1828
1828	JOHN DELAFIELD,	1836
1836	HICKSON W. FIELD,	1840
1840	ARCHIBALD RUSSELL,	

## LIBRARIANS.

1805	*JOHN FORBES,	1810
1810	JOHN PINTARD, LL.D.	1812
1812	JOHN W. FRANCIS, M.D.	1819
1819	*REV. FREDERICK C. SCHAEFFER,	1821
1821	HENRY M. FRANCIS, M.D.	1822
1822	MATTHEW C. PATTERSON,	1823
1823	HENRY W. DUCACHET, M.D.	1824
1824	ROBERT GREENHOW, M.D.	1827
1827	*RICHARD RAY,	1828
1828	*JAMES A. HILLHOUSE,	1829
1829	JOHN DELAFIELD, Jr.	1831
1831	SAMUEL WARD, 3d.	1836
1836	JOSEPH BLUNT,	1839
1839	GEORGE FOLSOM.	

## STANDING COMMITTEE.

1805	WILLIAM JOHNSON,	1816
"	*SAMUEL L. MITCHELL, M.D.	1819
"	*DAVID HOSACK, M.D.	1814
"	*REV. JOHN M. MASON, D.D.	1818
"	*His Exc. DANIEL D. TOMPKINS,	1809
"	*JOHN M'KESSON,	1818
"	*ANTHONY BLEECKER,	1820
1809	*DE WITT CLINTON, LL.D.	1810
1810	HON. GULIAN C. VERPLANCK, LL.D.	1828
1814	PETER A. JAY, LL.D.	1821
1816	Rev. SAMUEL F. JARVIS, D.D.	1817
1817	*JAMES EASTBURN,	1820
1818	*JOHN G. BOGERT,	1821
"	*Gen. JACOB MORTON,	1820
1819	*J. W. BRACKETT,	1821
1820	*THOMAS EDDY.	1823

<i>Elected.</i>		<i>Retired.</i>
1820	JOHN W. FRANCIS, M.D.	1829
1821	WILLIAM GRACIE,	1824
"	*ANTHONY BLEECKER,	1828
"	MATTHEW C. PATTERSON,	1823
"	H. W. DUCACHET, M.D.	"
1822	*ZACHARIAH LEWIS,	1824
"	*EZRA WEEKS,	1823
1823	WILLIAM L. STONE,	1825
"	JOHN B. BECK, M.D.	"
1824	WILLIAM COOPER,	"
1825	*ROBERT C. SANDS,	1828
"	JOSEPH BLUNT,	"
"	JAMES E. DE KAY, M.D.	"
1828	HENRY BREVOORT,	1829
"	*WILLIAM SAMPSON,	"
"	HUGH MAXWELL,	"
"	*SAMUEL WARD.	"

[NOTE—This Committee was abolished by an amendment of the Constitution of the Society, passed Jan. 12, 1829.]

## COMMITTEE ON PRINTED PUBLICATIONS.

1837	FRANCIS L. HAWKS, D.D.	1839
"	FREDERIC DE PEYSTER,	1840
"	HENRY M. FRANCIS, M.D.	1839
1839	GEORGE FOLSOM,	1840
"	JOHN L. STEPHENS,	"
1841	GEORGE GIBBS,	
"	ARCHIBALD RUSSELL,	
"	JOHN R. BARTLETT.	

## COMMITTEE ON MANUSCRIPTS.

1837	GEORGE B. RAPELYE,	
"	GOVERNEUR MORRIS WILKINS,	
"	GEORGE FOLSOM,	1839
1839	ARCHIBALD RUSSELL,	1840
"	GEORGE GIBBS,	"
1840	JOHN KNOX, D.D.	1841
"	WILLIAM W. CAMPBELL,	"
1841	PROSPER M. WETMORE.	

# MEMBERS

## OF THE

### NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

[NOTE.—The names of members deceased or resigned are omitted in this list.]

#### RESIDENT MEMBERS.

Alley, Saul  
 Amory, Jonathan  
 Anthon, Henry, D.D.  
 Aspinwall, William H.  
 Astor, William B.

Baldwin, Micah  
 Barron, Thomas  
 Bartlett, John R.  
 Beebee, Samuel J.  
 Beekman, James W.  
 Beers, Joseph D.  
 Betts, Hon. Samuel R.  
 Blatchford, E. H.  
 Bleecker, James W.  
 Blunt, Joseph  
 Borrowe, James H. M.D.  
 Boorman, James  
 Bradford, Alex. W.  
 Brodhead, John R.  
 Bucknor, William G.  
 Butler, Charles

Campbell, William W.  
 Catlin, George  
 Clark, L. Gaylord  
 Coffin, Edmund  
 Cogswell, Joseph G.  
 Coit, Joshua  
 Colden, David C.  
 Colgate, Charles  
 Constant, Joseph H.  
 Cotheal, Alex. J.  
 Cruger, Bertram P.  
 Cruger, John C.

Dana, Alexander H.

De Kay, James E., M.D.  
 De Peyster, Frederic  
 Dillon, Robert J.  
 Dorr, George B.  
 Draper, John W., M.D.  
 Draper, Simeon  
 Dubois, Cornelius, Jr.  
 Duer, John  
 Duyckinck, Evert A.

Eames, Charles  
 Eastburn, Manton, D.D.  
 Edmonds, John W.  
 Emmet, Thomas A.

Fessenden, Thomas  
 Field, David D.  
 Field, Hickson W.  
 Fish, Hamilton  
 Fleming, Gen. Augustus  
 Folsom, George  
 Fowler, Joseph  
 Francis, Henry M., M.D.  
 Francis, John W., M.D.  
 Frelinghuysen, Hon. Theodore, LL.D.  
 Furman, Hon. Gabriel

Gibbs, George  
 Gilchrist, Robert  
 Glover, John  
 Goodhue, Jonathan  
 Graham, John L.  
 Griffin, Francis

Haggerty, James  
 Haggerty, John

Haight, Rev. Benjamin I.  
 Hall, Hon. Willis  
 Hamilton, John C.  
 Hawks, Francis L., D.D.  
 Henry, C. S., D.D.  
 Herring, James  
 Hicks, Henry W.  
 Hobart, Dayton  
 Hoffman, Charles F.  
 Hoffman, Hon. Murray  
 Hoffman, Hon. Ogden  
 Hone, Philip  
 Hosack, Alex. H., M.D.

Inman, Henry  
 Irving, Washington

Jay, John  
 Jay, John C., M.D.  
 JAY, Peter A., LL.D. (Pres.)  
 Johnson, Prof. E. A.  
 Johnston, John  
 Jones, David S.  
 Jones James J.  
 Jones, Hon. Samuel

Kelly, William  
 KENT, Hon. James, LL.D.,  
 (Pres.)  
 King, Charles  
 King, Charles R., M.D.  
 King, John A.

Laight, Edward W.  
 Laight, Henry  
 Lawrence, John L.  
 Lawrence, Richard M.  
 Lawrence, William B.  
 Ledyard, Henry  
 LEWIS, Hon. Morgan (Pres.)  
 Livingston, Charles L.  
 Lord, Rufus L.  
 Low, Cornelius  
 Ludlow, Ezra  
 Ludlow, Thomas W.

Mackenzie, Alexander Sli-  
 dell, U.S.N.  
 Mactier, Alexander  
 Maroncelli, Piero

Mason, Prof. Cyrus  
 M'Cracken, John L. H.  
 Mercein, Thomas R.  
 Meredith, Samuel  
 Mills, Abraham  
 Minturn, Robert B.  
 Moore, Jacob B.  
 Morris, Gerard W.  
 Morris, Gouverneur  
 Morris, James V. C.  
 Mumford, William W. (Ro-  
 chester.)  
 Murray, James B.  
 Murray, John R.  
 Murray, Robert J.

Nathan, Jonathan  
 Neilson, Anthony B.  
 Neilson, John, Jr.  
 Neilson, William H.  
 Nevins, David H.  
 Nevins, Russell H.  
 Nicoll, Henry  
 Noah, M. M.  
 Noyes, William Curtis

Ogden, Richard H.  
 Olmstead, Francis  
 O'Rielly, Henry, (Roches-  
 ter.)

Packwood, Samuel  
 Palmer, John J.  
 Paulding, Hon. James K.  
 Pearsall, Thomas W.  
 Pearson, Isaac G.  
 Peck, Rev. Isaac  
 Pell, Ferris  
 Peters, Absalom, D.D.  
 Phillips, William, D.D.  
 Pierrepont, Henry E.  
 Post, Alfred C., M.D.  
 Powers, William P.  
 Prime, Edward  
 Putnam, George P.

Rapelye, George B.  
 Rhinelander, William C.  
 Richmond, Rev. William  
 Robbins, George S.

Robinson, Beverley  
 Robinson, Morris  
 Rogers, Benjamin W.  
 Rogers, J. Smyth, M.D.  
 Russell, Archibald  
 Russell, Charles H.  
 Rutherford, Walter

Sanford, Charles W.  
 Sargent, John O.  
 Schell, Augustus  
 Schell, Richard  
 Sedgwick, Theodore  
 Sidell, John A.  
 Silliman, Benjamin D.  
 Smith, Jotham  
 Stephens, John L.  
 Stevens, John A.  
 Stevens, Alex. H., M.D.  
 Stone, William L.  
 Stuyvesant, Peter  
 STUYVESANT, P. G. (Pres.)  
 Sullivan, George

Thompson, C. Giovanni  
 Tomes, Francis, Jr.

Van Rensselaer, Robert  
 Verplanck, Hon. Gulian C.  
 Verplanck, Samuel

Waddington, William D.  
 Wainwright, John M., D.D.  
 Ward, Elijah  
 Ward, Richard R.  
 Ward, Samuel  
 Washington, John A., M.D.  
 Webb, James Watson  
 Weeks, J. Abeel  
 Weir, Robert R.  
 Weld, H. Hastings  
 Welford, Charles  
 Wetmore, Gen. Prosper M.  
 Wilkins, Gouverneur M.  
 Willett, Edward M.  
 Williams, Stephen C.  
 Winthrop, Benjamin R.  
 Winthrop, Henry R.  
 Winthrop, John S.  
 Wolcott, Fred. H.  
 Wolfe, Christopher

Zabriskie, Martin R.

## HONORARY MEMBERS.

### IN THE UNITED STATES.

Adams, Hon. John Quincy,  
 Adams, Jasper, D.D.,  
 Allen, William, D.D.,  
 Allston, Washington,  
 Armstrong, Gen. John,\*  
 Bacon, Leonard, D.D.,  
 Bancroft, George,  
 Barlow, Timothy,  
 Beck, Lewis C.,  
 Bethune, George W., D.D.  
 Binney, Horace,

*Massachusetts.*  
*South Carolina.*  
*Maine.*  
*Massachusetts.*  
*New-York.*  
*Connecticut.*  
*Massachusetts.*  
*Illinois.*  
*Missouri.*  
*Pennsylvania.*

”

\* By a former provision of the constitution of the society, residents in the state of New-York were eligible as honorary members. This is not now the case.

Brackenridge, Henry W.,  
 Bradford, Alden, LL.D.  
 Channing, William E., D.D.,  
 Chauncey, Hon. Charles,  
 Coffin, Rev. Charles,  
 Cogswell, William, D.D.,  
 Condit, Hon. John S.,  
 Cushing, Hon. Caleb,  
 Davidson, Richard,  
 Davies, Hon. Charles S.,  
 Davis, Hon. John,  
 Dickenson, Hon. Mahlon,  
 Drake, Samuel G.,  
 Dunbar, Rev. Elijah,  
 Duponceau, Peter S., LL.D.,  
 Ducachet, Henry W., D.D.,  
 Duer, Hon. William A.,  
 Elton, Prof. Romeo,  
 Evans, David E.,  
 Everett, Hon. Edward, LL.D.,  
 Farmer, Henry T., M.D.,  
 Felt, Rev. Joseph B.,  
 Fine, Hon. John,  
 Flagg, Hon. Azariah C.,  
 Gaines, Gen. E. P.,  
 Garden, Major Alexander,  
 Gardiner, David, Esq.,  
 Granger, Hon. Francis,  
 Green, Rev. Ashbel, D.D.,  
 Hall, John E.,  
 Harris, Thaddeus M., D.D.,  
 Harley, Isaac,  
 Hawley, Jesse,  
 Hitchcock, Prof. Edward,  
 Hopkinson, Hon. Joseph,  
 Ives, Eli, M.D.,  
 Jackson, James, M.D.,  
 Jackson, Hon. Andrew, LL.D.,  
 Lowell, Charles, D.D.,  
 Marsh, George P.,  
 McIlvaine, Rt. Rev. C. P.,  
 Mease, James, M.D.,  
 Milledoler, Philip, D.D.,  
 Moore, Rt. Rev. Richard C.,  
 Murdock, James, D.D.,  
 Nichols, Ichabod, D.D.,  
 Nott, Rev. Eliphalet, D.D.,

*Pennsylvania.*  
*Massachusetts.*  
 "  
*Connecticut.*  
*Tennessee.*  
*Dartmouth Coll., N. H.*  
*New-Jersey.*  
*Massachusetts.*  
*South Carolina.*  
*Maine.*  
*Massachusetts.*  
*New-Jersey.*  
*Massachusetts.*  
*New-Hampshire.*  
*Pennsylvania.*  
 "  
*New-York.*  
*Rhode Island.*  
*New-York.*  
*Massachusetts.*  
*South Carolina.*  
*Massachusetts.*  
*New-York.*  
*New-York.*  
*U. S. A.*  
 "  
*New-York.*  
*District of Columbia.*  
*New-Jersey.*  
*Pennsylvania.*  
*Massachusetts.*  
*South Carolina.*  
*New-York.*  
*Massachusetts.*  
*Pennsylvania.*  
*Connecticut.*  
*Massachusetts.*  
*Tennessee.*  
*Massachusetts.*  
*Vermont.*  
*Ohio.*  
*Pennsylvania.*  
*New-Jersey.*  
*Virginia.*  
*Connecticut.*  
*Maine.*  
*New-York.*

Peale, Charles W.,	<i>Pennsylvania.</i>
Pennington, Gov. William,	<i>New-Jersey.</i>
Perkins, Cyrus, M.D.,	<i>New-Hampshire.</i>
Pierce, John, D.D.,	<i>Massachusetts.</i>
Pickering, John, LL.D.,	"
Plumer, Hon. William,	<i>New-Hampshire.</i>
Porter, Hon. Peter B.,	<i>New-York.</i>
Prescott, Hon. Samuel J.,	<i>Massachusetts.</i>
Prescott, William H.,	"
Quincy, Hon. Josiah,	"
Reed, Hon. William B.,	<i>Pennsylvania.</i>
Root, Hon. Erastus,	<i>New-York.</i>
Rush, Hon. Richard,	<i>Pennsylvania.</i>
Savage, Hon. James,	<i>Massachusetts.</i>
Savage, Hon. John,	<i>New-York.</i>
Schoolcraft, Henry R.,	<i>Michigan.</i>
Smith, Gerrit,	<i>New-York.</i>
Smith, Rev. Isaac,	<i>Massachusetts.</i>
Sparks, Prof. Jared,	"
Spencer, Hon. John C.,	<i>New-York.</i>
Staples, Hon. William R.,	<i>Rhode Island.</i>
Stevens, Hon. Samuel,	<i>New-York.</i>
Stevens, William B., M.D.,	<i>Georgia.</i>
Stewart, Commodore Charles,	<i>U. S. N.</i>
Story, Hon. Joseph, LL.D.,	<i>Massachusetts.</i>
Sutherland, Hon. Jacob,	<i>New-York.</i>
Tallmadge, Hon. James,	"
Tappan, Benjamin, D.D.,	<i>Maine.</i>
Tracy, Hon. Albert W.,	<i>New-York.</i>
Treadwell, John D., M.D.	<i>Massachusetts.</i>
Trumbull, Col. John,	<i>Connecticut.</i>
TYLER, JOHN, President of U. States,	<i>District of Columbia.</i>
Van Buren, Hon. Martin,	<i>New-York.</i>
Vaughan, John,	<i>Pennsylvania.</i>
Vroom, Hon. Peter D.,	<i>New-Jersey.</i>
Watson, John F.,	<i>Pennsylvania.</i>
Watts, Charles,	<i>Louisiana.</i>
Webb, Thomas H., M.D.,	<i>Massachusetts.</i>
Webster, Noah, LL.D.,	<i>Connecticut.</i>
Williamson, Hon. W. D.,	<i>Maine.</i>
Willis, William,	"
Wilson, Rev. Joshua L.,	<i>Ohio.</i>
Winthrop, Adam,	<i>Louisiana.</i>
Wood, Hon. Silas,	<i>New-York.</i>
Woods, Leonard, D.D.,	<i>Massachusetts.</i>
Wright, Hon. Silas, Jr.,	<i>New-York.</i>
Young, Hon. Samuel,	"

## FOREIGN.

Arfwedson, Charles David,	<i>Stockholm.</i>
Aspinwall, Col. Thomas,	<i>London.</i>
Brewster, Sir David,	<i>Edinburgh.</i>
Friederichstahl, le Chevalier,	<i>Vienna.</i>
Greene, George W.,	<i>Rome.</i>
Jeffrey, Francis,	<i>Scotland.</i>
Julius, Dr. N. C.,	<i>Hamburg.</i>
Kemper, J. M.,	<i>Leyden.</i>
Lambrechtsen, Sir N. C.,	<i>Netherlands.</i>
Leopold, Arch-Duke of Tuscany.	
Magnussen, Finn, Prof.,	<i>Copenhagen.</i>
Murray, John,	<i>Scotland.</i>
Niel, Patrick,	<i>Edinburgh.</i>
Ombrosi, James,	<i>Florence.</i>
Pazos, Don Vincent,	<i>South America.</i>
Pearson, George, M.D., F.R.S.,	<i>London.</i>
Puccino, Aurelis,	<i>Florence.</i>
Rafn, Christian C., Prof.,	<i>Copenhagen.</i>
Ridolfi, Marquis Cosimo,	<i>Florence.</i>
Roxburgh, William, M.D.	<i>Calcutta.</i>
Southey, Robert, LL.D	<i>England.</i>
Smith, Charles H.,	<i>Antwerp.</i>
Smith, Hon. William,	<i>Quebec.</i>
Stewart, Arch-Deacon,	<i>York, Canada.</i>
Swainson, William,	<i>Liverpool.</i>
Teignmouth, Lord,	<i>London.</i>
Thourie, André,	<i>Paris.</i>
Vallancy, Charles,	<i>Ireland.</i>
Vander Palme, J. H.,	<i>Leyden.</i>
Van Royen, Henricus,	<i>Netherlands.</i>
Wilson, Prof. John,	<i>Edinburgh.</i>
Yeates, G. D. M.D., F.R.S.,	<i>London.</i>